

HONORING SERGEANT JOHN F.
BAKER, JR.

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about John F. Baker Jr. of Moline, Illinois.

Sergeant Baker was awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War for heroically rescuing wounded soldiers from an ambush and leading a daring counterassault. The Medal of Honor is our nation's highest military honor and is awarded for personal acts of valor that go well above and beyond the call of duty.

He was accepted by the Army during the Vietnam War. As a side note, the Marine Corps said he was an inch too short. Remember that when I tell you that it was Sergeant Baker's strength that helped him save the lives of his fellow soldiers.

Sergeant Baker's unit was tasked with reinforcing a group of American soldiers pinned down in Vietnam, close to the Cambodian border. About 3,000 Vietnamese had taken cover in the surrounding brush. As the U.S. soldiers advanced, the lead scout was shot and killed, and the jungle erupted in enemy fire.

Sergeant Baker ran toward the front and helped destroy two enemy bunkers. Although he was blown off his feet by an enemy grenade, he willed his own recovery enough to make repeated trips through fire and smoke to evacuate wounded American soldiers, who were much bigger than he was. By the end of the hours-long conflict, his uniform was soaked in the blood of his fellow soldiers. In all, Sergeant Baker was credited with recovering eight fallen U.S. soldiers, destroying six bunkers and killing at least 10 enemies.

Sergeant Baker was honored in our home state of Illinois and in the Congressional District I serve in 2010 when the Interstate 280 Bridge over the Mississippi River was renamed the John F. Baker, Jr., Bridge. A monument also has been dedicated in his honor, in Rock Island, Illinois. Sergeant Baker passed away early last year. His family says they will remember his courage, strength, and love the most.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that over the years, my region of Illinois has been the home to many brave veterans who have served our country in times of war and peace, including those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. The extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by Sergeant Baker reflect the greatest credit upon himself, his unit, the Armed Forces and our entire nation. For that we will be eternally grateful. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES
HOLIFIELD

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Mr. James Holifield of New Carlisle, Indiana, who has been named Indiana's Middle School Principal

of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals. This well-deserved honor reaffirms Mr. Holifield's exceptional work in the field of education.

Mr. Holifield has served as principal at New Prairie Middle School since 2002. Since that time, he has spearheaded the creation of the Alternative to Suspension/Expulsion (ATSE) Program. This innovative program requires students to complete daily physical activity and community service projects and provides students with one-on-one tutoring and counseling services in lieu of suspension or expulsion. This unique approach to discipline has resulted in a decrease in expulsions and a lower rate of recidivism.

In addition, Mr. Holifield's passion for intercultural communication led him to create a Mandarin language program at New Prairie Middle School. This program resulted in a partnership with "sister schools" in Liaoning Province, China that includes faculty and student exchange visits and regular Chinese guest teachers at New Prairie Middle School. Mr. Holifield's innovative program has provided many students with marketable skills that can be used in our ever-evolving global economy. These two achievements are only a sampling of Mr. Holifield's contributions to New Prairie Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. James Holifield for his exemplary work and impressive accomplishments in the field of education. Thanks to educators like Mr. Holifield who take the time to invest in their students, our children face a brighter future filled with greater opportunity. Mr. Holifield's work serves as an example not only to his colleagues but to all Hoosiers, and the Second District of Indiana is grateful for his service.

TRIBUTE TO TALIA LEMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 18-year-old Talia Leman of Wauke, Iowa for her charitable efforts and for being named one of ten recipients of the 2013 Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards. These awards are presented annually to Jewish teens who exemplify the Jewish concept of "repairing the world".

Talia's philanthropic spark was first ignited in 2005, when she chose to trick-or-treat for change instead of candy in order to raise money to help those struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Talia successfully united her classmates into doing the same, and shortly thereafter her effort garnered national attention. In the end, 4,000 school districts across the United States collectively raised over \$10 million for this effort.

In this altruistic spirit, Talia established the nonprofit RandomKid. This website provides youth with the tools and resources they need to formulate and develop community service projects by sharing possible ideas, strategies and funding opportunities. RandomKid has facilitated the efforts of 12 million youth from 20 countries bringing aid to four continents. Examples of RandomKid's reach include funding for water pumps, school construction, and medical care.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent young Iowans like Talia Leman in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the House will join me in commending her for her sincere dedication to helping others and wishing her continued success well into the future.

TRIBUTE TO SEN. HARRY F. BYRD,
JR.

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, July 30, 2013, Virginia witnessed the passing of Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., of Virginia. Senator Byrd was a dedicated public servant and an exemplary figure in the history of our Commonwealth.

Born in Winchester, Virginia, Senator Byrd spent his life dedicated to Virginia. He attended both Virginia Military Institute and the University of Virginia, served our nation during World War II, and spent 78 years leading the Winchester Star, his family's newspaper. His 36 years of public service as a Virginia Senator and as a United States Senator set a high standard for integrity and leadership.

Senator Byrd always provided a strong voice for limited government and economic conservatism. He was at the center of many major policy discussions that shaped the future of this country. The late Senator is remembered for his positive, bipartisan approach to the great debates of his time, and his commitment to fiscal responsibility. During the 77th Congress, Senator Byrd proposed a commission to reduce the size and scope of the federal government. Named after its creator, the "Byrd Committee" was tasked with cutting unnecessary federal spending, which led to billions in savings during its first few years.

Senator Byrd's time was marked by great domestic and international transformation, and he played a crucial role as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, a Virginia and U.S. Senator, and as a journalist. His many contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation as a whole will long be remembered.

On behalf of myself, Leader ERIC CANTOR, and Representatives FRANK WOLF, BOB GOODLATTE, RANDY FORBES, ROB WITTMAN, MORGAN GRIFFITH, and SCOTT RIGELL, I am honored to pay tribute to Senator Byrd's legacy. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones.

HONORING SHILOH BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shiloh Baptist Church in McLean, Virginia. Shiloh Baptist Church celebrated its 140th anniversary last week.

Shiloh Baptist Church was founded in 1873 by Rev. Cyrus Carter, a native of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The church's first services were held at Odrick's Public School in McLean. The